

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 /089 R

DRAFTED BY USOAS:JJJOVA:MJ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

USCINCSO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167221

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, HO, ES, CU

SUBJ: SALVADOR POSITION RE VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE RE CUBA

1. DUE TO INTENSITY OF INVOLVEMENT IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH  
HONDURAS IN OAS COMMITTEE OF SEVEN (STATE 166066)  
BORGONOVO UNABLE TO CALL AT DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO DEPARTURE  
THIS MORNING.

2. IN LIGHT OF THIS, JOVA TOOK ADVANTAGE OF HIS PRESENCE AT  
COMMITTEE OF SEVEN MEETING TO TELL HIM IN CORRIDOR THAT  
DEPARTMENT WISHED TO SEE HIM IN ORDER TO URGE THAT SALVADOR  
VOTE AGAINST VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE SHOULD IT BE PRESENTED  
TO OAS COUNCIL. BORGONOVO SAID THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH  
OUR REASONING BUT HAD BEEN IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH  
GUATEMALA AND HAD AGREED TO ACT IN CONCERT. SALVADOR HAD  
SIDED WITH THE UNITED STATES IN THE PAST BUT HAD ONLY DONE  
SO WITH INCREASING RELUCTANCE AND LAST TIME ONLY AT OUR  
INSISTENCE AND AGAINST ITS BETTER JUDGMENT. ON THIS  
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OCCASION IT AGREED WITH GUATEMALA THAT THE MOST THAT IT

COULD DO WOULD BE ABSTAIN WHICH WOULD HELP THE U.S. POSITION BY NOT GIVING AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE TOWARDS A VENEZUELAN MAJORITY. JOVA STRESSED THAT WHILE ABSTENTION WAS HELPFUL IT WAS NOT GOOD ENOUGH POLITICALLY FOR WHILE PREVENTING A VENEZUELAN MAJORITY IT ALSO SEEMED TO EXPRESS A WEAKENING OF SUPPORT FOR WHAT WAS AFTER ALL PRESENT OAS POLICY ON CUBA.

3. BORGONOVO SAID THAT HE REGRETTED HE COULD GO NO FURTHER, CLAIMING THAT SALVADOR AND GUATEMALA FELT INCREASINGLY ISOLATED ON THIS SUBJECT. MOREOVER, SALVADOR ALSO HAD A PUBLIC OPINION PROBLEM WHICH WENT BEYOND UNRULY LEFTIST STUDENTS. HE SAID THAT U.S. RAPPROACHMENT WITH SOVIET UNION, CHINESE AND NOW EAST GERMANY MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO JUSTIFY CONTINUING ISOLATION OF CUBA. MOREOVER, U.S. SALES OF WHEAT AND SOYA TO THESE COUNTRIES HAD MADE FOR SHORTAGES AND SOARING PRICES IN CENTRAL AMERICA, A TRADITIONAL U.S. CUSTOMER. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IT WAS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN TO SALVADORAN PEOPLE THAT FELLOW LATIN PEOPLE IN CUBA MUST SUFFER CONSEQUENCES OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WHILE U.S. SELLS FOODSTUFFS TO ITS FORMER ENEMIES.

4. UNDER PRESSURE, BORGONOVO SOMEWHAT GRUDGINGLY SAID THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT ENCOURAGE US REGARDING POSSIBLE CHANGE IN SALVADORAN POSITION, HE WOULD CONSULT HIS PRESIDENT UPON HIS RETURN TO SAN SALVADOR. JOVA URGED THAT IN CONSULTING HIS PRESIDENT HE INFORM HIM OF THE STRONGLY HELD U.S. GOVERNMENT POSITION ON THIS MATTER. ROGERS

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